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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR: TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Introduction

1. The present addendum supplements and updates the information communicated at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, which is contained in the annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/51/465) and in the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1997/27). The addendum indicates the contributions received and grants paid since 5 December 1996. It also contains a paragraph on the development of national legislation in support of victims of torture.

GE.97-10045 (E)

2. Since 5 December 1996 the following contributions have been made to the Fund:

State	Contribution in U°$	Date	Number of previous contributions
Chile	4 000	9.12.96	3
Sri Lanka	1 000	5.12.96	5

3. Since 5 December, two grants in abeyance (total value: $30,000) have been paid to organizations for programmes selected by the Board of Trustees at its session in May 1996 (see E/CN.4/1997/27 and A/51/465, table in para. 26).

4. According to information brought to the attention of the secretariat by the Centre for Victims of Torture (Minnesota), Mr. Christopher H. Smith (New Jersey), President of the Sub-Committee on International Operations and Human Rights of the United States House of Representatives, together with 49 co-sponsors, introduced a Torture Victims Relief Act in 1995 (H.R. 1416) 1/ which provides for important measures in support of torture victims:

> "First, implementation of the provisions of the Convention Against Torture that prohibits the involuntary return of any person to a country in which there are substantial grounds for believing that he or she would be in danger of being subjected to torture. ...
>
> Second, expedited processing for asylum applicants who present credible claims of subjugation to torture, a presumption that such applicants shall not be detained during the pendency of their asylum claims, and a provision taking into account the effect of torture in the adjudication of such claims.
>
> Third, specialized training for consular, immigration and asylum personnel on the identification of evidence of torture, techniques for interviewing torture victims and related subjects.
>
> Fourth, a Center for Disease Control study with respect to torture victims currently in the United States and the recovery services available for such persons.
>
> Fifth, authorization of grants for rehabilitation services for victims of torture and related purposes.
>
> Sixth, authorization of voluntary contribution from the United States to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in the amount of $1.5 million for 1996 and $3 million for fiscal year 1997. The United States contribution to this fund in 1995 is $1.5 million."

1/ Hearing before the Sub-Committee on International Operations and Human Rights of the Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, One Hundred Fourth Congress, Second Session, 8 May 1996.

5. Any Government, intergovernmental organization, non-governmental institution or organization or individual in possession of interesting information on measures taken, both international and national, in aid of torture victims may communicate it to the secretariat of the Fund and the Board of Trustees, c/o High Commissioner, United Nations Centre for Human Rights, 1211 Geneva 10, fax (004122) 917 00 99, telephone 917 33 94.

6. The information will be brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees at its session in May 1997, the General Assembly at its session in September-December 1997 and the Commission on Human Rights at its session in 1998.